

Annual Report

InoYouth

2023



InoYouth

www.inoyouth.org.mk

Kumanovo, North Macedonia

Introduction

InoYouth/InoMladi, established in 2021, is a non-governmental organization committed to pioneering innovative methods for environmental preservation and pollution mitigation. Our organization takes pride in its dynamic team, comprising four young enthusiasts and two senior consultants, whose passion and dedication drive our mission forward.

At InoYouth, we develop and implement comprehensive projects aimed at raising awareness of environmental issues and providing practical solutions to enhance the environment. Our initiatives are aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly focusing on Goal 13 (Climate Action), Goal 5 (Gender Equality), and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being). We aim to contribute to a healthier planet by promoting clean air, sustainable practices, and resilient ecosystems.

Our primary focus is on engaging young people and fostering the innovations of future generations. We believe that empowering youth with knowledge and tools is crucial for creating long-term sustainable change. By encouraging innovative thinking and environmental stewardship, we aim to nurture a generation that is well-equipped to tackle the environmental challenges of the future.

In addition to our focus on youth, we place significant emphasis on addressing the unique needs and rights of women. InoYouth is dedicated to advocating for women's rights, ensuring that women are integral to decision-making processes related to environmental policies, and promoting gender equality in all our projects. We recognize that women often face disproportionate impacts from environmental degradation and climate change, and we strive to create inclusive solutions that address these disparities.

Furthermore, InoYouth is deeply committed to environmental justice. We work to ensure that all communities, regardless of socio-economic status, have access to clean air, water, and a healthy environment. Our projects are designed to combat environmental inequities and support the rights of marginalized groups who are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of pollution and climate change.

By integrating these critical areas, InoYouth strives to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all. Through our innovative approaches and unwavering commitment, we aim to inspire a collective responsibility towards the environment and drive meaningful change on a global scale.

Memorandums

InoYouth and the Municipality of Kumanovo signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to foster positive environmental changes and tackle air pollution, with a strong focus on supporting youth initiatives. The goal of this partnership is to collaborate on joint projects, research, and development, as well as knowledge sharing and other activities that will enhance the environmental sustainability of the region.

Prior to the signing, we had a productive discussion with Mayor Maksim Dimitrievski about how we can collaborate and provide support for initiatives of common interest. This dialogue highlighted the mutual commitment to improving environmental conditions and the well-being of the community.

The partnership emphasizes the inclusion of youth, women, and marginalized communities in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs addressed. Additionally, the collaboration aims to support these groups in fighting inequalities and promoting social justice.

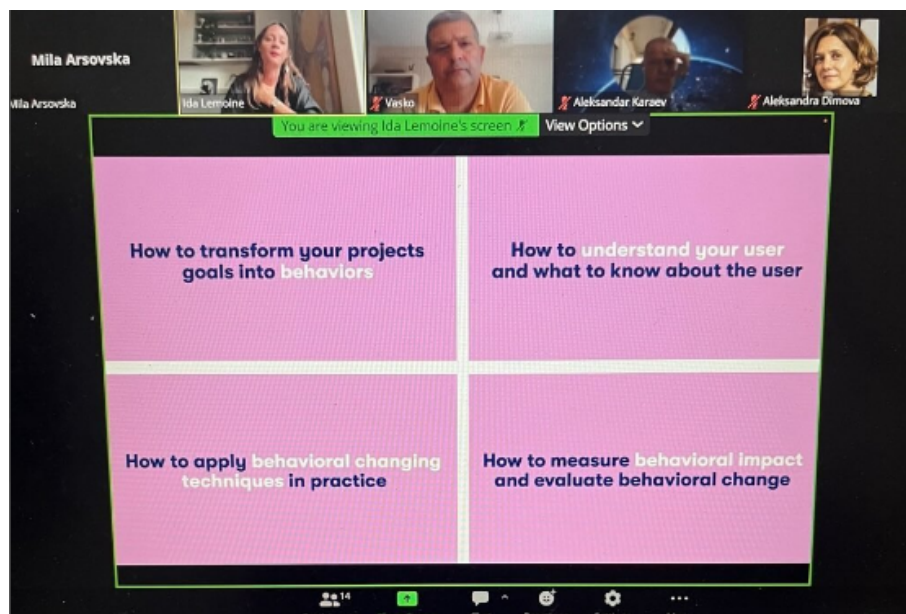
Through this comprehensive approach, InoMladi and the Municipality of Kumanovo will work towards building the capacities of local organizations and educational institutions to adopt and implement effective environmental solutions. Together, we aim to create a cleaner, healthier, and more equitable future for all residents.

Workshops

Within the framework of the project "Tackling air pollution", financed by Sweden and implemented by UNDP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and PP, InoYouth participated at a workshop, where the main focus was on presenting data visualization tools, a creative approach to strengthening public awareness, efficient communication tools as well as integrating gender issues into the initiatives themselves. The workshop was an exceptionally creative and valuable process. It provided our team with innovative methods to effectively communicate the urgency of air pollution issues to the public. The data visualization tools demonstrated were particularly impactful, offering new ways to present complex data in an accessible and engaging manner.



Additionally, we participated in another set of workshops focused on behavioral change, conducted by Swedish behavioral expert Ida Lemoine. These sessions were equally creative and helpful, providing us with deep insights into how behavioral science can drive positive actions. The knowledge gained from Ida Lemoine's expertise will be crucial in designing programs that encourage sustainable behaviors within communities.



Discussion with the president

InoYouth was honored to attend an inspiring discussion with President Stevo Pendarovski, alongside various civil society organizations and activists. The event focused on the expectations for the 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference (#COP28), scheduled to take place in Dubai from November 30th to December 12th.

This discussion provided a valuable platform for sharing insights and strategies related to climate action and sustainability. Engaging with President Pendarovski and other stakeholders was a profound experience, reaffirming our commitment to addressing environmental challenges and promoting sustainable development.

We were delighted to be part of this significant dialogue, which underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in tackling global climate issues.



Project: "SMEs Green Transition in Kumanovo"

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 01.11.2023 - 31.08.2024

The "SMEs Green Transition in Kumanovo" project aims to tackle air pollution and inspire and support SMEs in their journey toward a green transition. Addressing the environmental and health challenges posed by air pollution, particularly concerning small and medium enterprises (SMEs), our project is structured around clearly defined specific objectives. Recognizing that women-led businesses are often underrepresented and face unique challenges in the sustainability sector, the project commits to supporting these enterprises and identifying the specific needs of SMEs in the area, with a particular focus on women-led companies and women from marginalized communities.

In addressing the environmental and health challenges posed by air pollution in Kumanovo, particularly for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), our project has four key objectives and few main activities:

Objectives:

1. **Enhance Understanding:** Conduct comprehensive analyses to assess current sustainability practices among SMEs in Kumanovo and identify gaps.
2. **Capacity Building:** Educate and train SMEs on sustainable business practices, focusing on energy efficiency, waste management, and pollution reduction.
3. **Catalyze Green Initiatives:** Encourage existing businesses to adopt greener practices and inspire new sustainability-focused initiatives.
4. **Raise Awareness:** Increase understanding among SMEs about the importance of green transition and its connection to clean air, with special support for women-led businesses and marginalized communities.

Activities:

1. **Analysis:**
 - Conduct a thorough analysis to improve knowledge about existing practices among SMEs and provide recommendations.
2. **Capacity Building:**
 - Develop specialized training programs on sustainable business practices.
 - Involve businesses in mentorship processes:
 - Two educational workshops focused on green transition, renewable energy sources (RES), green technologies, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Project: "SMEs Green Transition in Kumanovo"

- Two workshops on green financing, covering how to secure funding for green projects.
 - Individual mentoring sessions to provide personalized guidance and support.
3. Pilot Projects:
- Prepare and implement pilot projects that will encourage more businesses in the city to take their first steps toward green transition.
 - Showcase successful pilot projects as models for other SMEs to follow.
4. Awareness-Raising Campaign:
- Launch an awareness-raising campaign to educate the SMEs of Kumanovo about the importance of sustainable business practices.
 - Highlight the impact of these practices on improving air quality and public health.

By focusing on these objectives and activities, the SMEs Green Transition project aims to create a sustainable and healthy environment in Kumanovo. The project not only addresses air pollution but also promotes economic growth and resilience among local SMEs, with a strong emphasis on inclusivity and support for women-led businesses and marginalized communities. Through analysis, capacity building, pilot projects, and awareness campaigns, we aspire to foster a culture of sustainability and environmental stewardship among SMEs in Kumanovo.

DONOR: The initiative "Green transition of small and medium-sized enterprises in Kumanovo" is supported through the project "Tackling air pollution" which is part of the UNDP Program Framework, financed by Sweden.



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Project: "Hotel for Bees"

In celebration of Earth Day, our organization, InoYouth, in collaboration with a group of enthusiastic young people from Kumanovo, initiated the "Hotel for Bees" project. This initiative aims to support the local bee population by creating a dedicated space where bees can find refuge and respite.

The project involved the construction of several bee hotels using sustainable materials, ensuring they are eco-friendly and safe for bees. To complement the physical installation, we organized educational workshops to teach citizens about the crucial role bees play in our ecosystem and how they can contribute to protecting these vital pollinators.

By involving young people and local citizens, the project fosters a sense of community and shared responsibility for environmental stewardship.

